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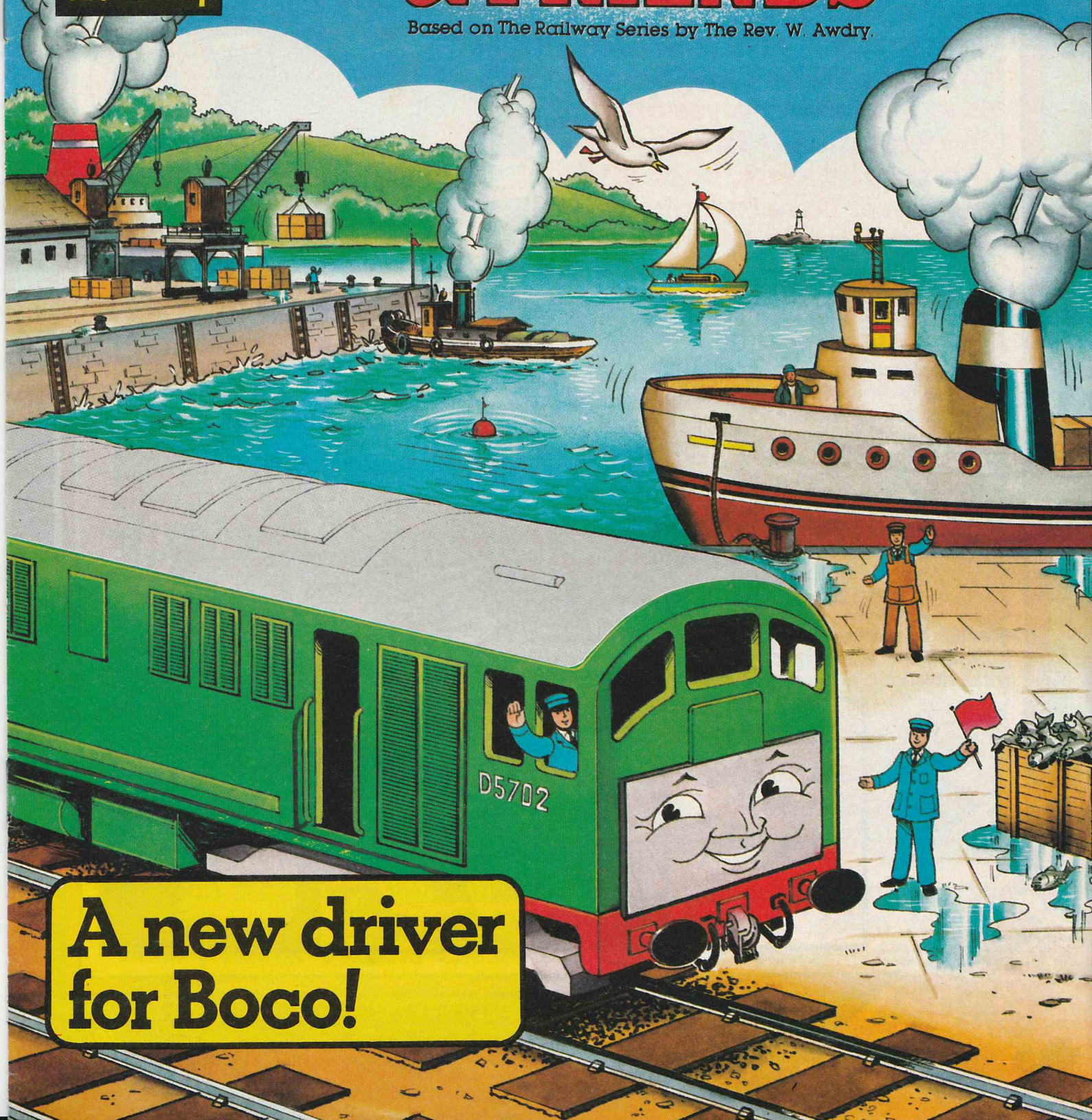
No.45 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

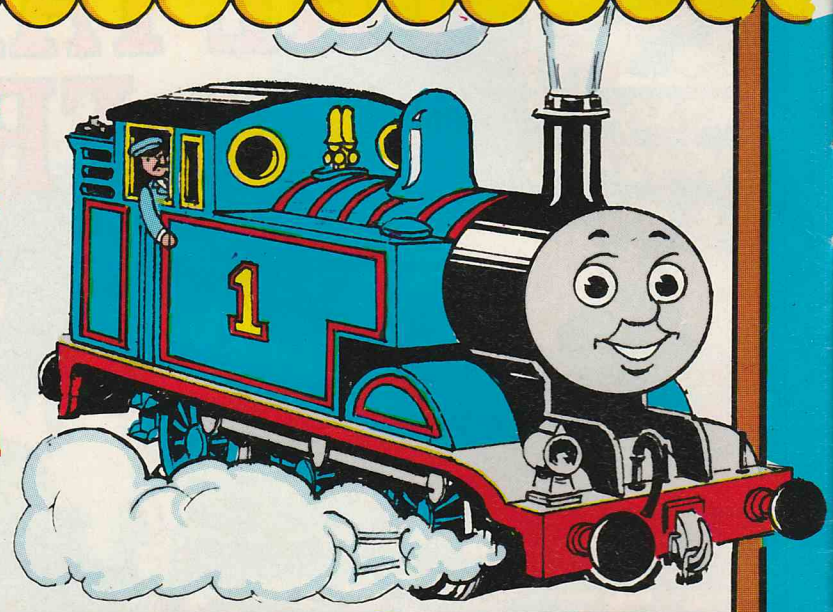
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



A new driver for Boco!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! A new driver is coming to work with Boco on the Island of Sodor. The new driver is very stubborn indeed and oh dear! Soon they find themselves on the wrong line! Then, in our second story, Boco and his driver have to make an emergency stop!



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Take out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and every issue will be sent straight to your home for one full year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! There are more details on page 7!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. All you have to do is collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow, one red and one green token, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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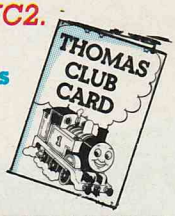
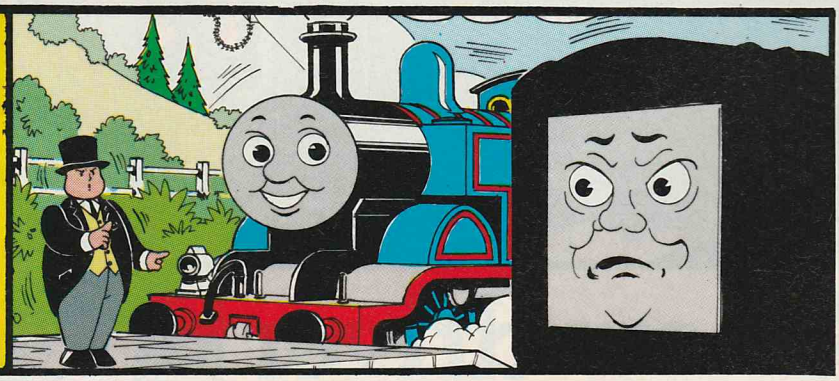


NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

Have you got an interesting letter or picture that you'd like to send to the Fat Controller? If you have, and we choose it as our star letter, you'll receive a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Torch** from *Uni-Lite Leisure Ltd.* So why not write to him at the address shown on the letters page?

In our next issue: Nasty Diesel is going to play a trick on Thomas!



THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.
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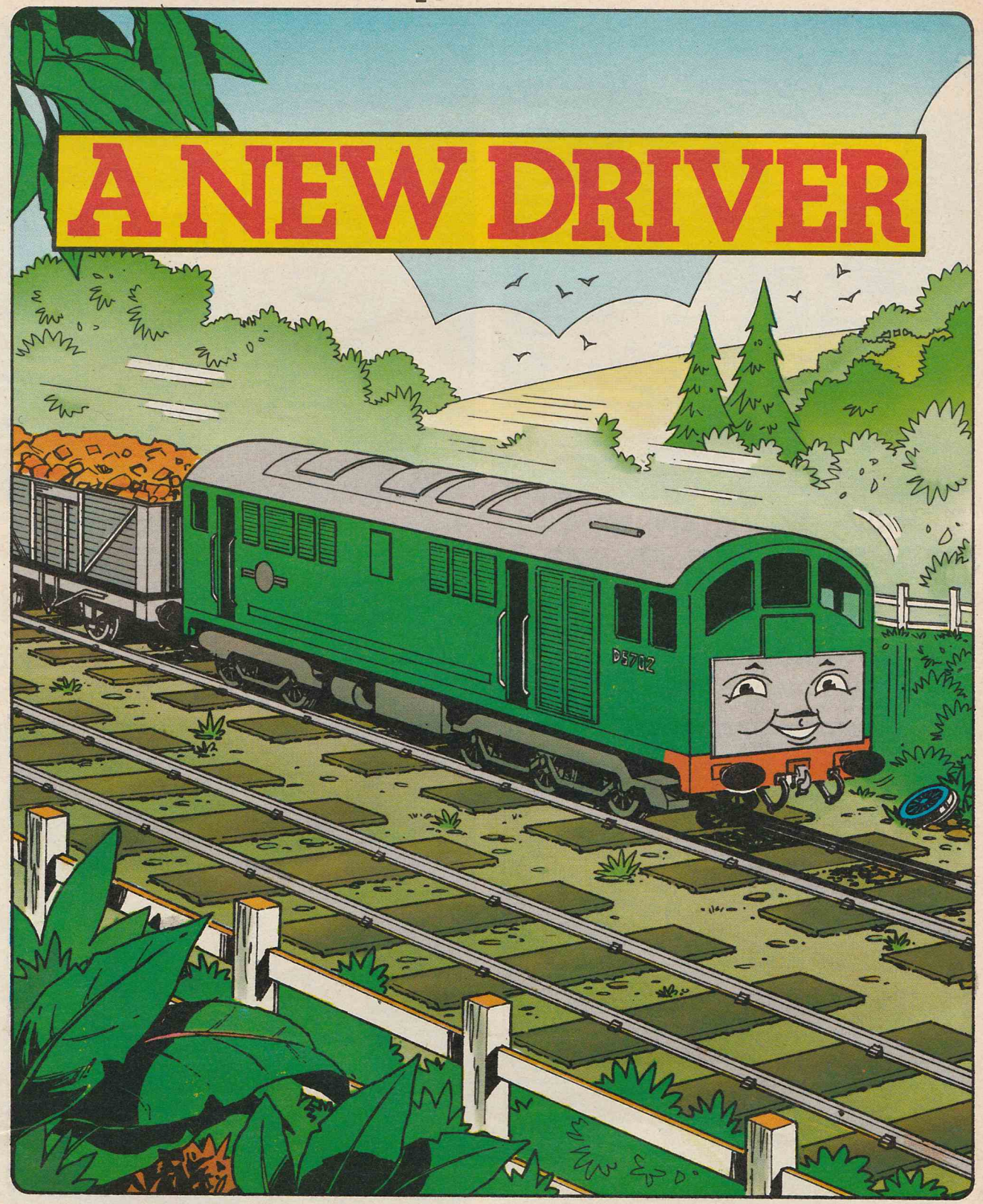
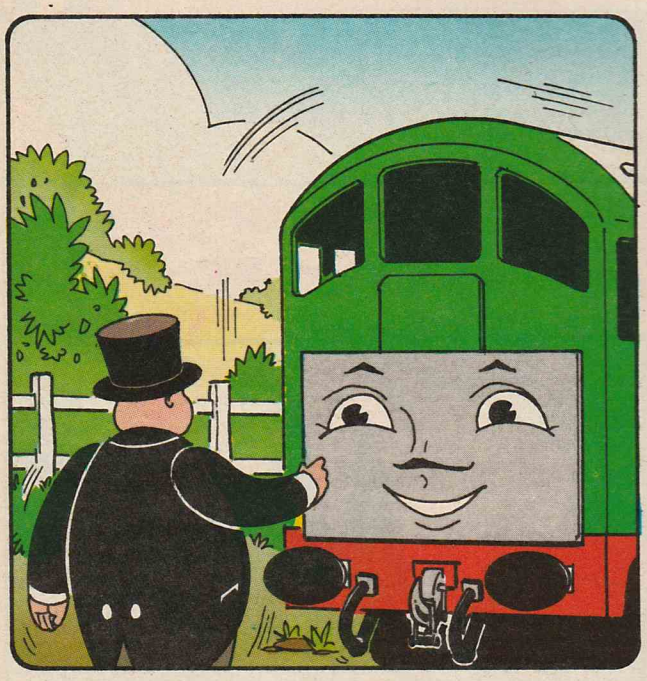
ABC

A listen and look story!



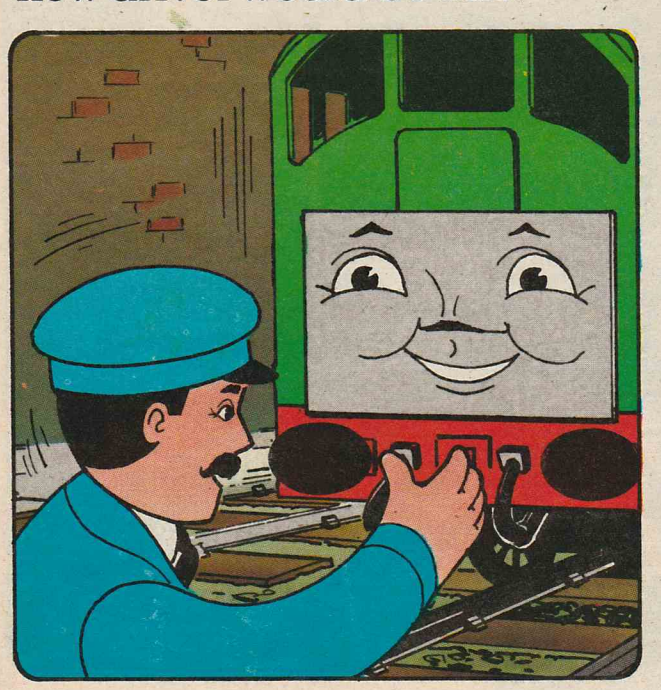
1. Boco is a diesel engine, or to be more precise, a Metropolitan Vickers Diesel-Electric, Type Two. He works on the Island of Sodor and is a kind and happy engine.

2. Boco pulls trucks along the main line, or down to the harbour yard, carrying goods to and from the big ships. One day, the Fat Controller came to see him.

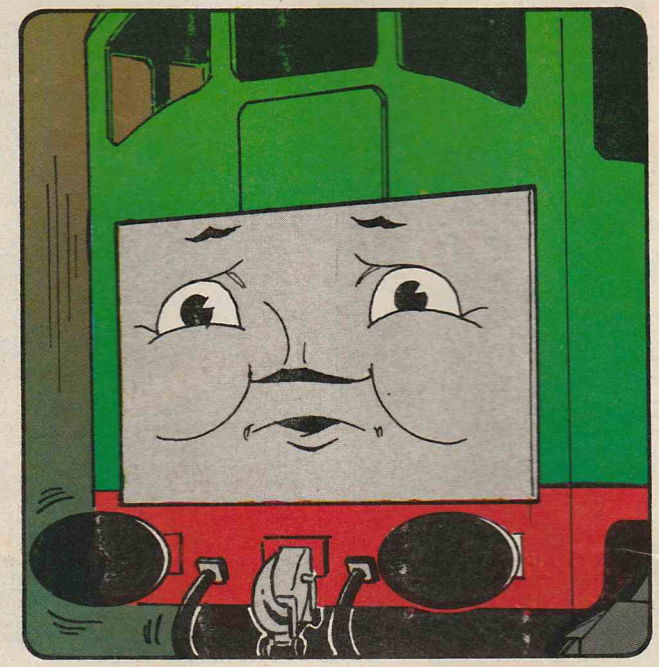


3. "Hullo, Boco," he said. "I have some news for you. I have a new driver coming in to work with you, tomorrow." Boco wondered what this new driver would be like.

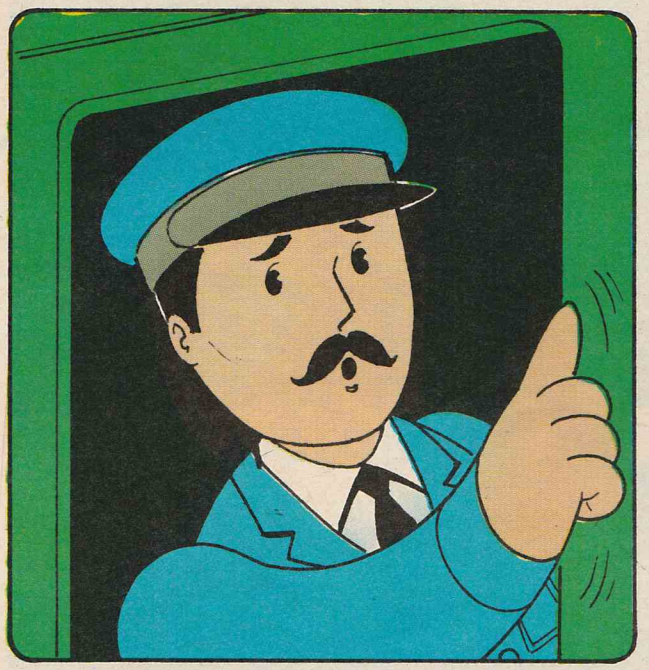
4. The next morning a man came into the shed, whom the engines hadn't seen before. "Hullo," said Percy, "Can I help you?" Percy thought the man was lost.



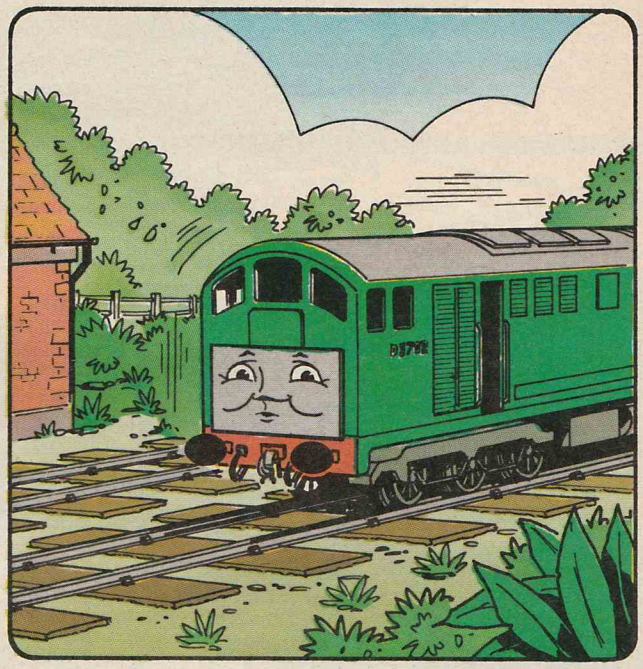
5. "Hullo," said the man. "Which one of you is the engine they call Boco?" "I am," said Boco. "Oh," said the man. "A diesel! Well, Boco, I'm your new driver."



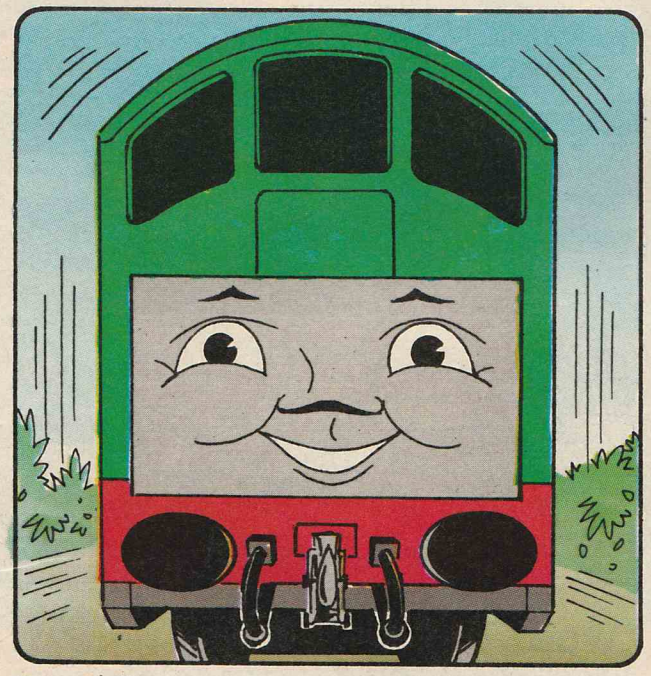
6. Boco's new driver climbed into Boco's cab. He was used to driving steam engines, not diesel, so he wasn't very sure about what to do. Boco shuddered as he started.



7. "I need more throttle!" he cried. "Oh," said the new driver. But it took him some time to get it right. He didn't find driving Boco very easy at all!



8. He kept making mistakes and Boco kept having to tell him what to do. He went backwards instead of forwards, his gears were jerky and poor Boco felt ill!



9. After a couple of days things began to improve. The new driver was much more confident and his driving became smoother too. "Aah, that's better!" said Boco.

10. "I know," said the new driver. "I don't need to be told by my engine!" He was a very proud and stubborn man. After his earlier troubles he wanted to prove himself.

11. Boco's new driver didn't want to be told how to do anything! So when the points were set wrong on the main line, and he was sent along the Branch Line instead, he didn't want to hear what Boco had to say. "We're on the wrong line! We're on the wrong line!" called Boco. But the new driver pretended not to hear him.

12. "I know what I'm doing," he said. "I know where I'm going!" But he was rather surprised, when he reached the harbour yard! The Fat Controller was there, too! "What are you doing here?" he asked. Boco didn't know what to say. "Um, my fault, sir," said the embarrassed driver. He was very sorry he hadn't listened to Boco!

Continued on page 13!

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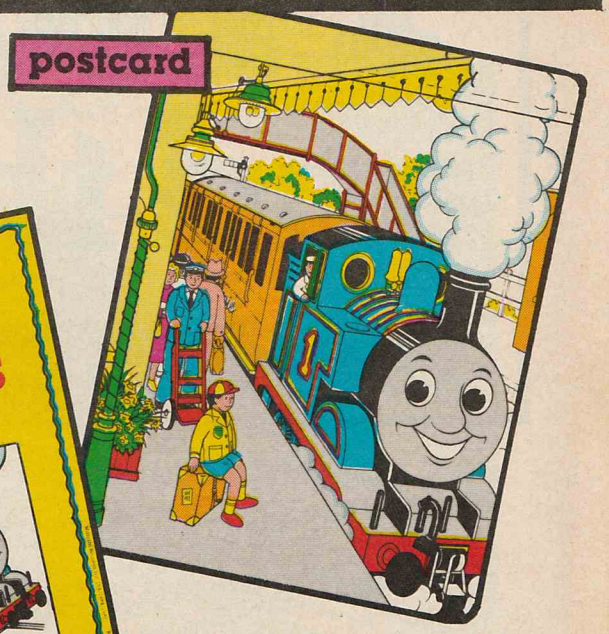

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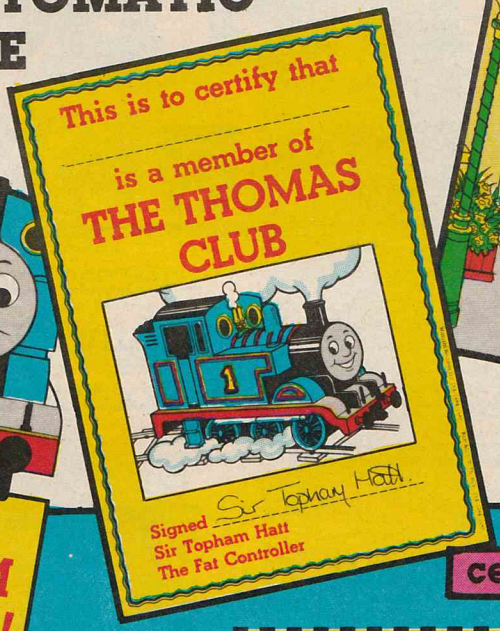

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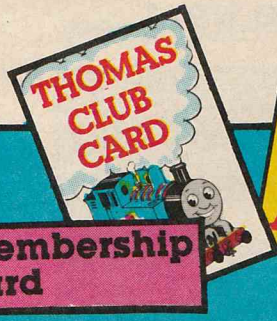

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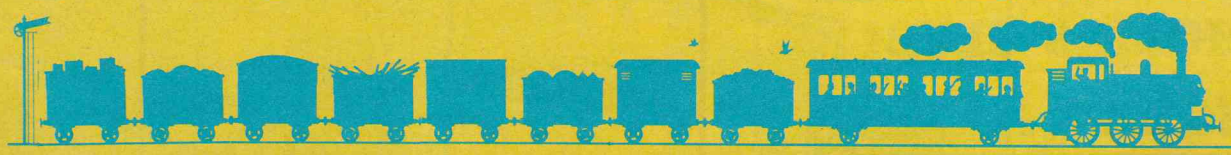
GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS

A read-aloud story!

Thomas and the Bottles



"Come along, Thomas, it's time for your next train," said Thomas's driver one morning.

"Will we need Annie and Clarabel?" asked Thomas.

"Not this time, it's trucks," said his driver. Thomas frowned. He did not like trucks very much. He much preferred pulling Annie and Clarabel, full of people.

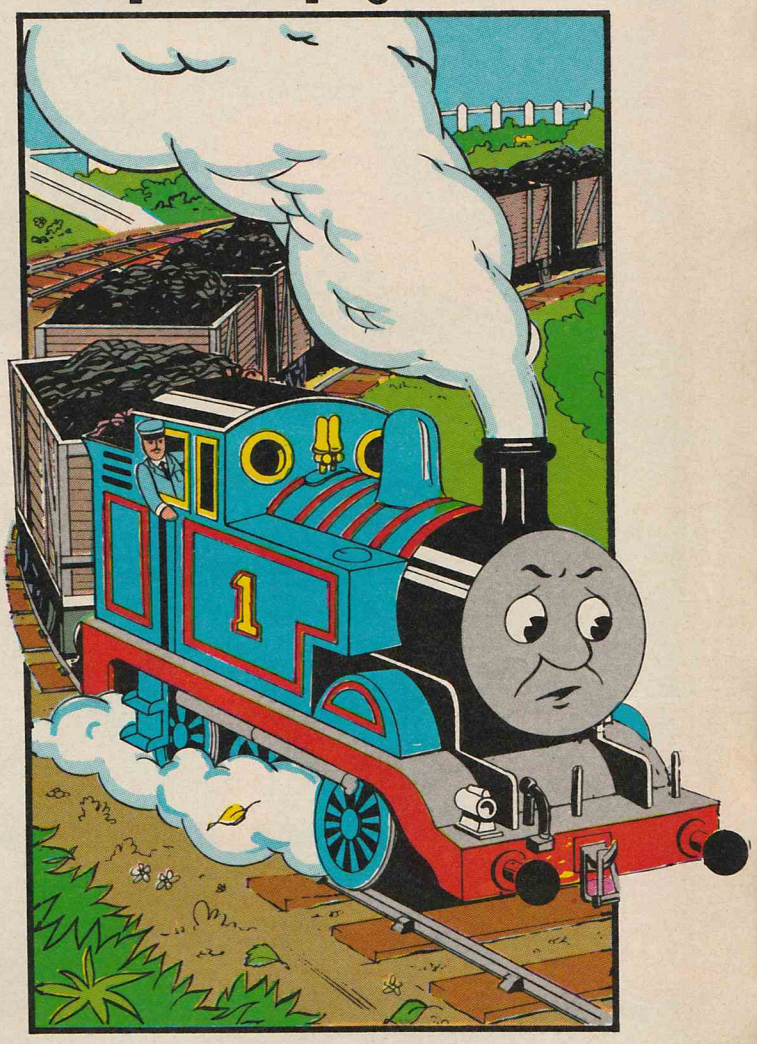
As they came past the station Thomas saw the Fat Controller on the platform. "You must go very carefully with your next train, Thomas," he said. "The trucks are full of bottles They are very fragile, which means they can break easily." "I'll do my best," said Thomas, and off he went.

The trucks were waiting in a siding and were already loaded up. Thomas was coupled to the front and steamed off. The trucks were behaving very badly and kept bumping Thomas. "Stop that," he said, "you will break the bottles " There was another bump and the sound of breaking glass.

bottles

"Slow down Thomas," said his driver, but the trucks got worse and kept bumping and shouting. They started down a hill and Thomas could not help going faster and faster. At the bottom of the hill was a corner and as they went around it one of the trucks went right over! Broken bottles fell out all over the line. The truck just groaned and all the others were quiet.

"Oh no!" said Thomas. "What will the Fat Controller say?" "Never mind that just now, we must get this glass and the truck off the line," said the fireman. They set to work with the coal shovel and got all the glass off the track. Then they put a rope from Thomas around a tree to the fallen truck. Very gently, Thomas moved away and the truck was pulled upright.



Thomas was worried about what the Fat Controller would say, but the Fat Controller was not cross. "It was not your fault that the trucks were bad and broke the bottles," he said. "You did well to help clear up as well. In fact, you were a Really Useful Engine!"

THE END

Out of the tu

Who is coming out of the tunnel?

What is he crossing?

Is he near or far away?

Are all the flowers open?

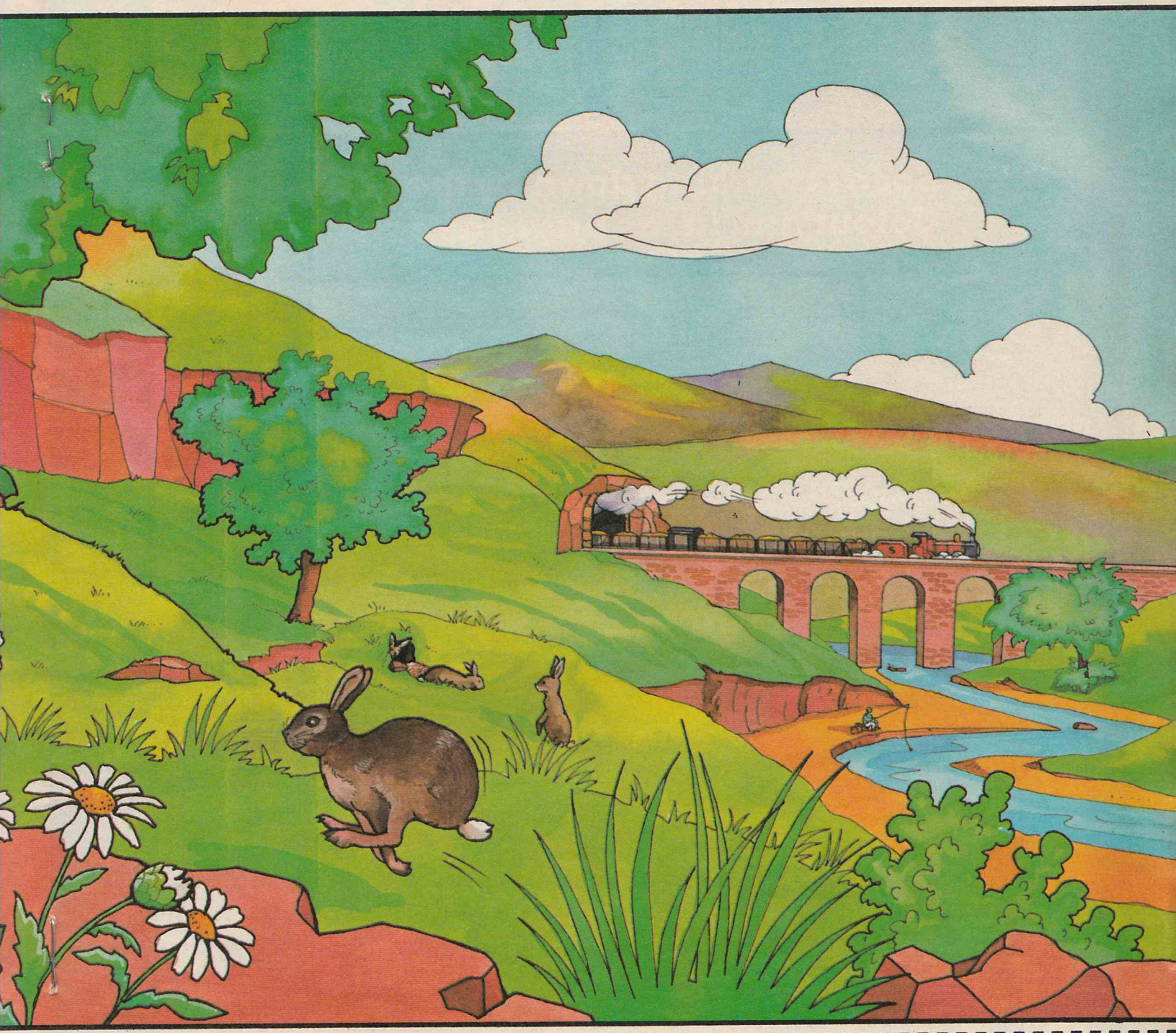
How many buds are th

Point to the rabbit hol

Has the boy climbed h

Where can you see re

tunnel!



are there?

oit hole!

nbed higher than the girl?

see red spots?

Note for parents

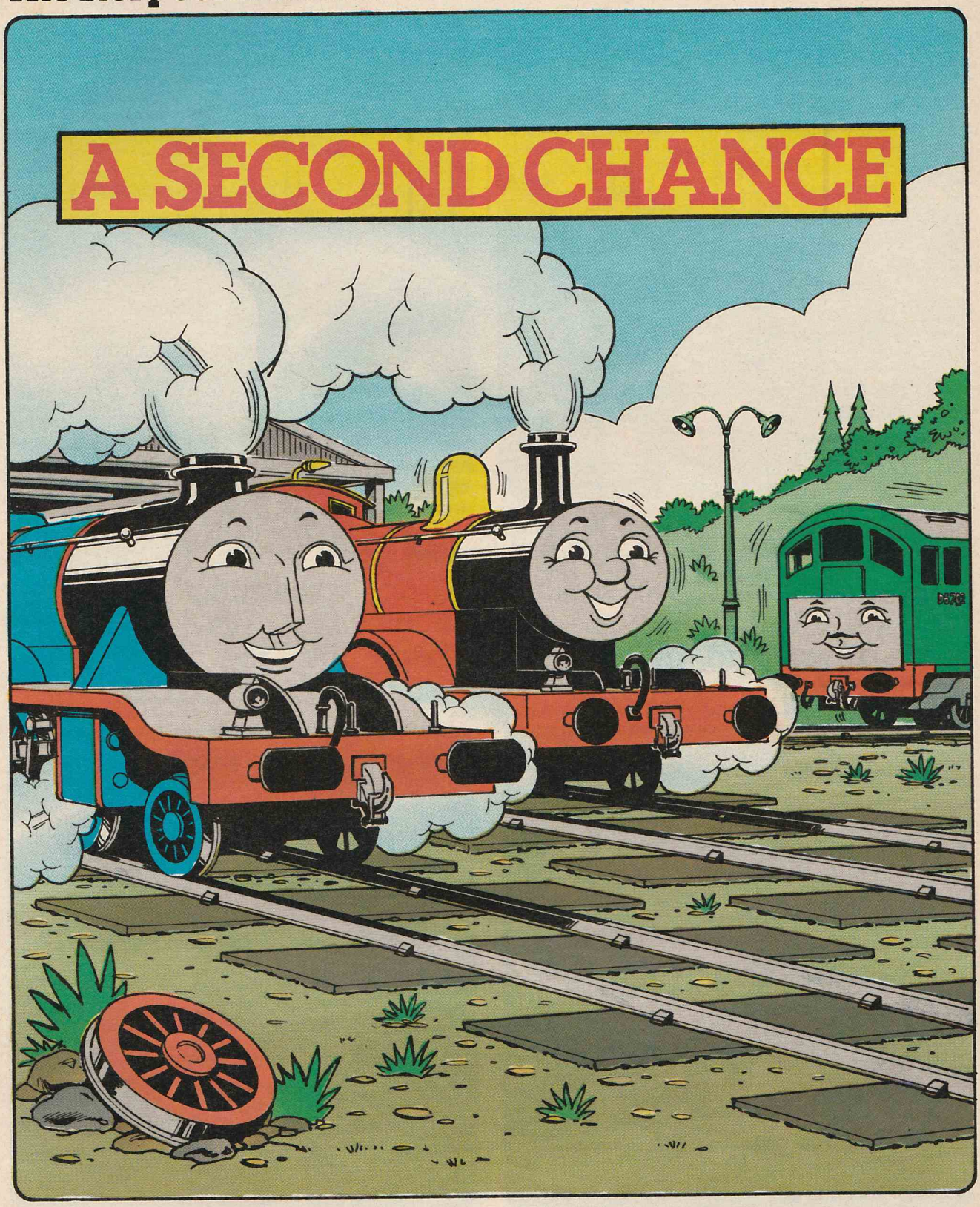
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next issue: At the seaside!

COLOURING TIME!

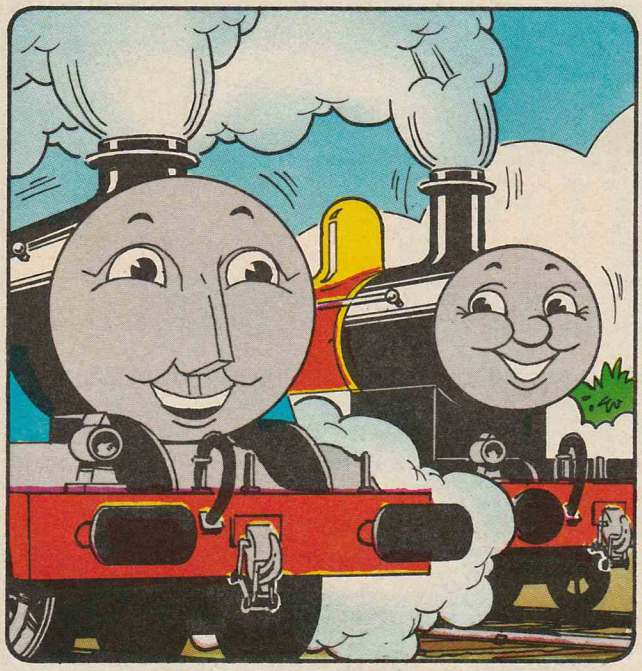
Boco is working down by the sea.
Colour him in, as bright as can be!

The story continues!

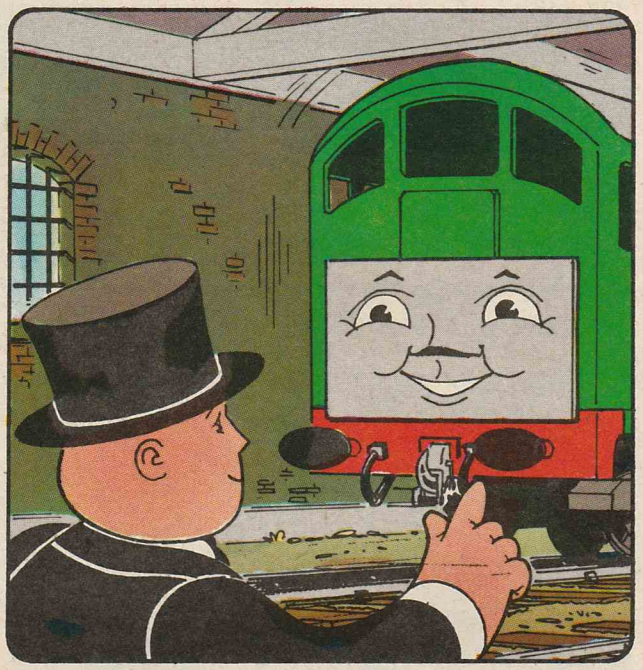


1. Boco was not very happy with his new driver. He just wouldn't listen to what Boco tried to tell him. That was how they had managed to end up in the harbour yard.

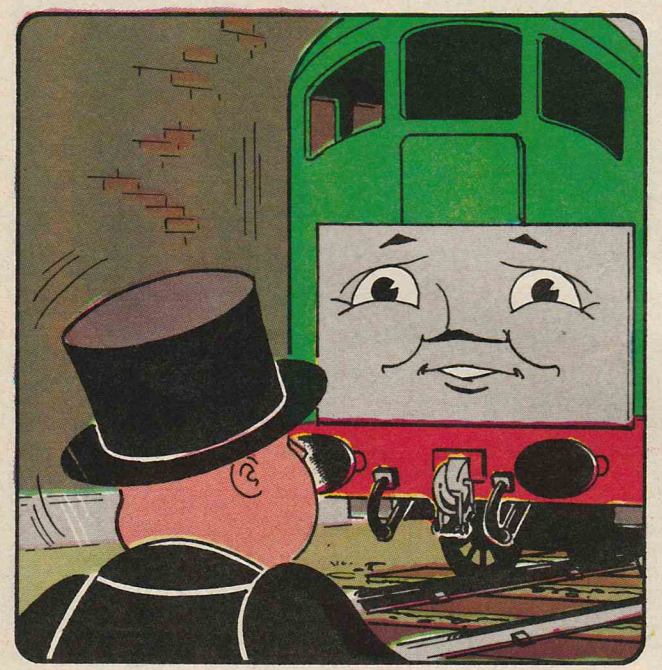
2. They shouldn't have been there at all! Boco felt very embarrassed about the whole thing. The other engines thought it very funny indeed.



3. "Why didn't you watch which way you were going?" teased Gordon. "You should know the lines!" Perhaps his new driver had him round back to front," joked James.

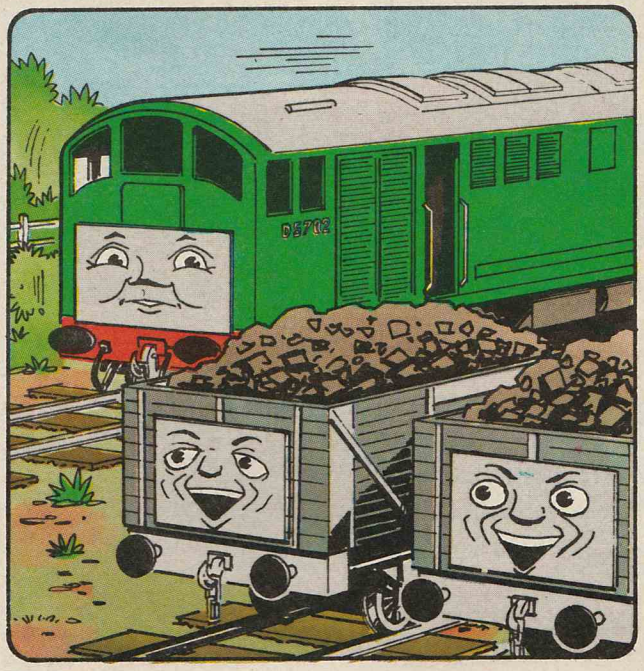


4. All the teasing made Boco feel even worse. He decided to do something about it. When the Fat Controller came into the shed, Boco wanted to talk to him.



5. "Please, sir," said Boco. "But that new driver is no good, sir. You saw how he wouldn't listen when we went the wrong way. I don't want to work with him, sir."

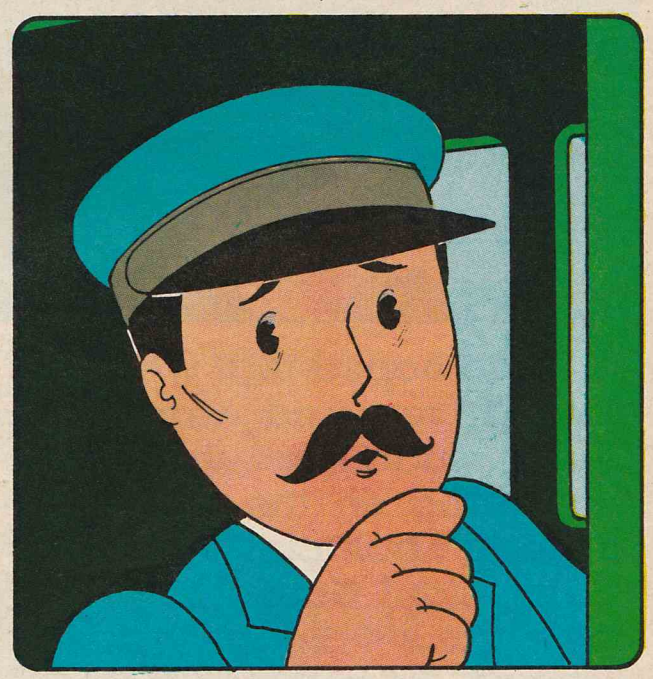
6. "Now, now, Boco," said the Fat Controller. "You do realise the man is new to diesels. I have had a talk with him and I think we must give him a second chance."



7. Boco was not very happy about it, but he reluctantly agreed. It wasn't easy. The trucks giggled as Boco passed by. Everybody seemed to be talking about it.

8. Even the passengers were gossiping about Boco's new driver. "He's very stubborn and never listens," said one woman. "I only hope he knows his stuff," said a man.

9. Boco overheard them as they climbed on board. He was taking a passenger train with his new driver. The guard blew his whistle and they set off once again.



10. Boco's new driver was very sorry about what had happened before. "I suppose I was a little headstrong," he said. "But I'll listen to you from now on, Boco."

11. Boco hoped that what his new driver said was true. Then suddenly he saw something on the track just ahead. "Look out!" he cried. "Stop! Stop! Something's on the track! Boco's driver listened. As quick as a flash, he pulled on the brakes. There was a jolt as the train screeched to a halt, just in time to miss hitting a goat!

12. The passengers didn't like to be jolted. "I shall complain about the driver," said the same woman. "He's no good," agreed the man. "I think there's the one you should complain to," said the guard, pointing to the goat. Boco was very pleased. His new driver had listened and acted quickly. Perhaps he wasn't so bad after all!

THE END

In our next issue: Diesel's Plan!

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to know more about you! Please ask a grown-up to fill in this page, with your help!

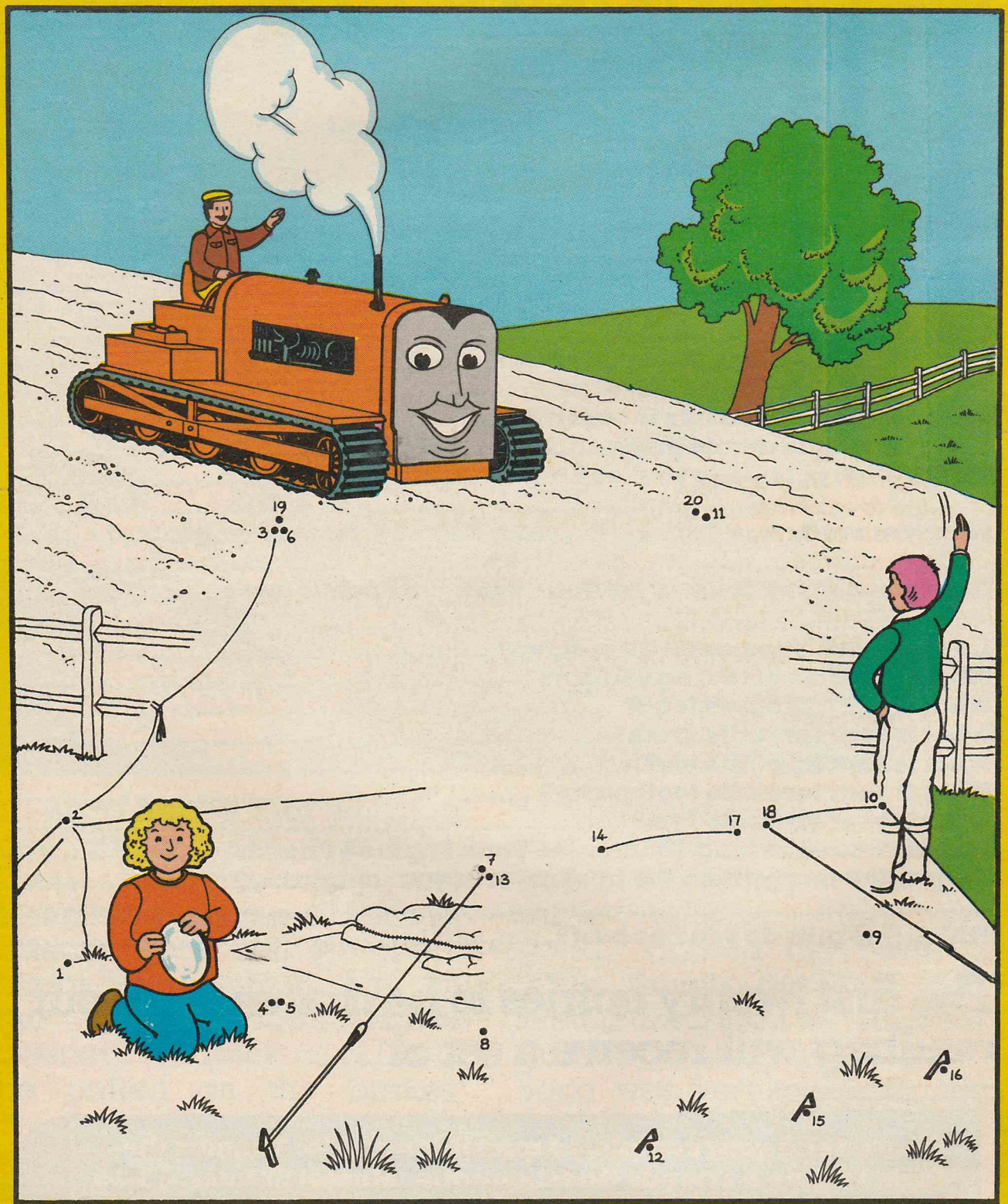
How old are you? ..... Are you a boy or a girl? .....
How often do you buy Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends?.....
Which is your favourite part of it? .....
What else would you like to see in it? .....
Which is your favourite engine? .....
Which other comics do you read? .....
.....
Who else reads your Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine? .....
.....
Have you got any Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends toys? .....
.....
Do you watch Thomas on TV or video? .....
What breakfast cereal do you eat? .....
What is your favourite food? .....
What is your favourite drink? .....
What is your favourite toy? .....
What is your favourite toothpaste? .....
What is your favourite film? .....
Do mum and dad read Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends? .....
Do you like free gifts on the front cover of your magazine? .....
.....
Which free gifts do you like best? .....

The first twenty entries to be drawn from our mailbag will receive a set of Thomas Stickers!

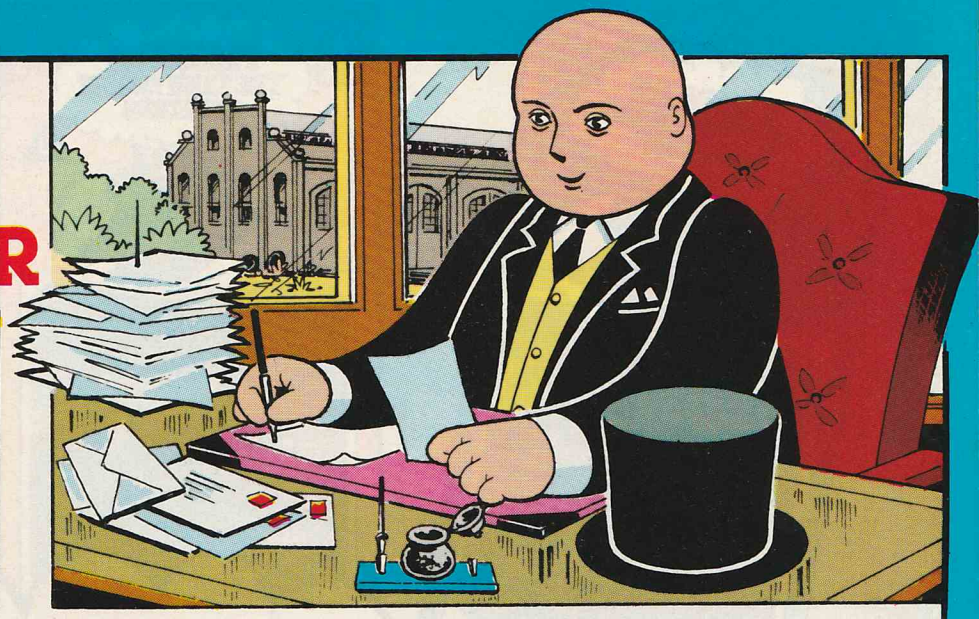
Please send your completed questionnaire to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Questionnaire, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

What do you think is in the field next to Terence? Join the dots and find out!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

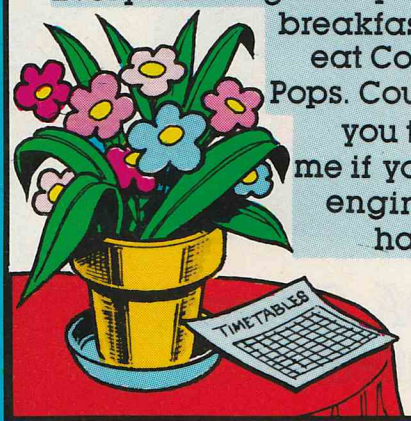
Dear Fat Controller,
Why aren't Bill and Ben allowed to pull passenger trains?
From **David,** aged 7.

Bill and Ben are far too mischievous to work on the main line with the bigger engines. They are more suited to working in the clay pits or down by the harbour, where they can get on with their work and not tease the other engines too much!

David wins a Thomas the Tank Engine torch from Uni-Lite Leisure Ltd.

BREAKFAST TIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Every morning for my breakfast I eat Coco Pops. Could you tell me if your engines have breakfast? If so, what do they eat?
Love from **George,** aged 3.



*Just like you or I the engines **do** have a breakfast. First thing in the morning, their boilers are stoked up full of the finest, black coal.*

NAUGHTY DIESEL!

Dear Fat Controller,
Diesel is always causing trouble for the engines. Why don't you send him away?
From **Adam,** aged 5.

Sometimes Diesel can be quite a mischievous engine, but if he were not with us I am sure that we would all miss him. And besides, he can be very useful.

HOW MANY?

Dear Fat Controller,
How many drivers does Thomas have?
From **Alan,** aged 7.

Thomas has only one official driver and I must say they work together very well indeed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Gary Cripps, Christopher Hargreave, Anthony Wraith (18692), Graham Wraith, Michael Pezet, David Cottingham (4786), Janette Mitchell, Jordan Barnard, Ian Anderton (25058), Jeremy Ruffle, Sion Walter Mowbray (25930), Paul Whitehouse, Liam Dalby, David Atkinson (18643), Samantha Ripley (24321), Kevin Swindells (5531), Victoria Morrow (8644), Jennie Ruskin (25792), Jonathon Cavill (25806), James White (19729), Gordon Crichton (17642), Jonathon Taylor (20125), Nicholas David Thomas (23287), Fraser West, James Warner (20376), Ross Bentley, Peter Baker, Christopher Homer (09285), Jacob Pye (19318), Harry Crawford (12759), Emma Neave, Kevin Middleton (12896), Gareth James Burrough (21846), Phillip Jones (18189), George Cramer, Marc Llewellyn (25980), Neil Munday (26744), Aimi Swift, Matthew Thomas Hanlon.

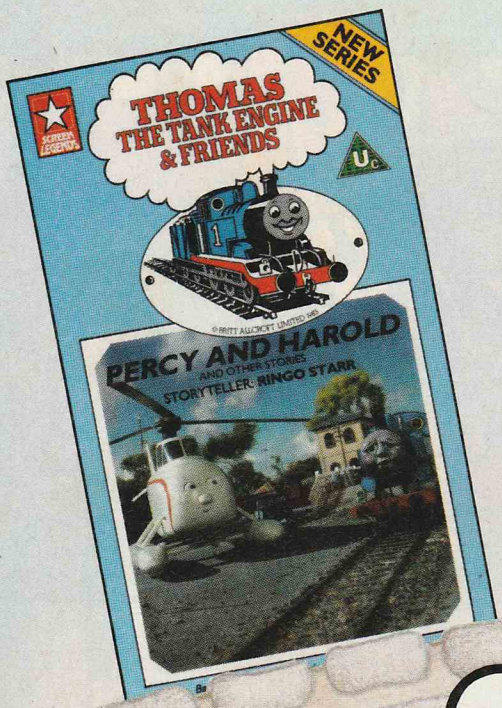
If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **8 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will do our best!

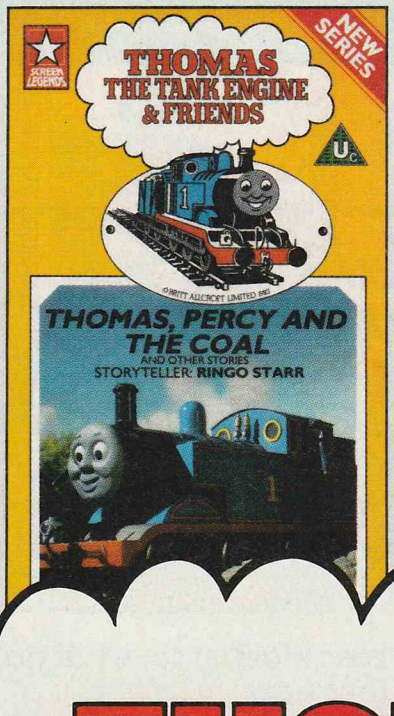
Yours,

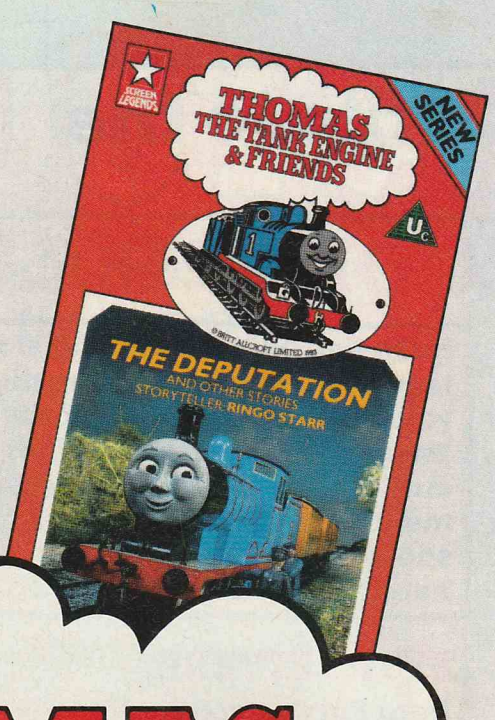
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.







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